AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Please amend the written description as follows:

At page 1, please amend the paragraph beginning starting at line 2 to read as follows:

This application claims the benefit of the U.S. Provisional Application No. ~~60/108,585~~ 60/108,385, Filed on November 12, ~~1999~~ 1998.

At page 3, line 7, please insert the following paragraph:

Figures 2C and 2D shows schematic views illustrating the magnitude of the signal received based upon orientation of the microspheres of Figures 2A and 2B, respectively.

At page 5, please amend the paragraph starting at line 11 to read as follows:

Figure 2B shows the microsphere pair oriented in alignment with the optical collection axis 220. In this situation, the fluorescence from the marked microsphere, or objective 210 is enhanced by the lensing action of the lens 200. The amount of collected light indicative of the marked lens is enhanced. This can be seen according to a geometric optics argument, as indicated in Figures 2C and 2D, which show schematic views comparing the magnitude of the signal received based upon orientation of the microspheres of Figures 2A and 2B, respectively.

At page 9, please amend the paragraph 5 starting at line 7 to read as follows:

The above has described one embodiment of these miniature lenses, but other applications are also possible. Figure 4 shows the microlensing particle used in an optical scanning microscope. The microsphere lens 100 is held within optical tweezers ~~400~~ over a surface 415 to be scanned. The lens is indexed by an indexer 410 to scan the device across the surface 415. The surface can be illuminated by a lamp 420, causing light to reflect off the surface. Alternatively, the light from lamp 420 can cause fluorescence of the materials on the surface 415.

At page 10, please amend the paragraph starting at line 9 to read as follows:

A diode laser relies on two mirrors shown as 500 and 502 to form a lasing cavity 504. The present embodiment attaches microlens 506 directly on the output mirror ~~508~~ 500. This helps collimate the laser beam 510. Moreover, since the laser itself is often on the order of size of 10μm. a microscopic lens can help collimate almost all of the output light from the laser while minimally adding to the size of the laser.